

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant(s):	Satoru WAKAO et al.	Group Art Unit:	2135
		Examiner:	Ponnoreay PICH
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For:	IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, COMPUTER PROGRAM AND COMPUTER-READABLE RECORDING MEDIUM		

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND SUBMISSION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.114

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Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

This paper is a preliminary amendment and constitutes a Rule 114 submission for the accompanying request for continued examination. This paper is being filed in response to the December 4, 2008 final Office Action (the "Office Action"). This paper is set forth as follows:

- **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper; and
- **Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.